GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2165
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Disappeared Lakes/Rivers
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of disappearance of lakes and dying rivers in the country;
(b) if so, the details of lakes that disappeared during the last five years as well as the details of rivers under threat at present, State-wise; and
(c) the measures taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b)This Ministry does not maintain data on disappearance of lakes and dying rivers in the country. However, it keeps a watch on water pollution level in lakes and rivers in the country. The water quality of rivers, lakes & other water bodies is regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) through a network of monitoring stations, which cover 445 rivers as well as 244 lakes, tanks & ponds. As per the report published by CPCB in February 2015, 302 polluted river stretches have been identified on 275 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. The State-wise details are at Annexure-I. The CPCB has also reported that the water quality of 151 lakes, ponds & tanks is exceeding the prescribed limits in terms of BOD.
(c) The Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the programmes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) for implementation of projects on cost sharing basis between Central and State Governments. The NGRBA programme along with work of Ganga & its tributaries has been transferred to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR) from 01/08/2014 onwards. NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4517.82 crore. So far, an amount of Rs. 2056.58 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement works and sewage treatment capacity of 2373 million litres per day (mld) has been created under the NRCP programme (excluding Ganga & its tributaries).

For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). To have better synergy and to avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into a new integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for holistic conservation of lakes & wetlands in the country. This Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of Rs.1096.09 crore under the programme and Rs.674.462 crore has been released as Central share to the concerned States. In addition, Rs.148.113 crore has been released to the concerned State Governments for undertaking various conservation activities in 82 identified wetlands under the programme.

State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants, in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme of Ministry of Urban Development and the Namami Gange programme (under NGRBA) of MoWR,RD&GR.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to the State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committees regarding setting up of sewage treatment plants and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to 69 municipal authorities of metropolitan cities and state capitals under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated in their jurisdiction.

To control discharge of industrial effluents, CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the monitoring of compliance, directions have been issued to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent and emission monitoring devices.

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